

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 USC 102 over Murakami *et al.* (USP 6,870,336). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Murakami discloses a hybrid vehicle comprising an engine 11 mounted in an engine room, a transmission 13 disposed adjacent to the engine, at least one electric motor 12, an inverter 16 disposed in the engine room and at least one high voltage wire C routed between the engine and a passenger cabin of the hybrid vehicle. However, in Murakami the inverter is not disposed in the engine room as required by present claim 1. In Murakami the inverter 16 is disposed behind the passenger compartment, not in the engine room. The term "engine room" should be interpreted to be the compartment in which the engine is placed, and in Murakami the inverter is not in the engine room. This interpretation of "engine room" is consistent with the specification, which indicates in paragraph 0034 "The engine is disposed in front of a dash panel 14 which is a partition between an engine room (also referred to as an engine compartment) 12 and a cabin of the hybrid vehicle 10."

Further, Murakami does not disclose that the high voltage wire is routed between the engine and a passenger cabin of the hybrid vehicle. Instead, in Murakami, the high voltage wire connects the motor 12 with inverter 16, but is routed on a side of engine 11. This routing could result in the exact problem that the present invention is designed to prevent, namely that in an impact to a side of the hybrid vehicle, the high voltage wire can become pinched between the engine and other devices or parts arranged on the side of the engine.

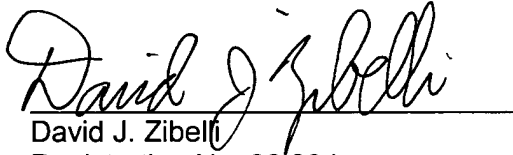
Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, would not be anticipated by Murakami. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the above, Applicant's submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,


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